

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT DEBATE ON FEBRUARY 24 CONSPIRACY

1. SUMMARY. PREMIER CARAMANLIS AND MINDEF AVEROFF URGUED THAT GOG FED ROPE TO CONSPIRATORS IN ORDER THE BETTER TO HANG THEM. SUPPORTERS OF IOANNIDES WERE ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE FREELY IN ORDER TO COMPLETE GOG INVESTIGATION OF DEPTH AND EXTENT OF THEIR CONTACTS AND SECURE COMPELLING EVIDENCE. YOUNGER OFFICERS HELPED GOG IN ITS SURVEILLANCE OF SUSPECTS. GOG HAD DECIDED ON MEASURES TO PROSECUTE REMAINING "JUNTIKI" OFFICERS WELL BEFORE FEBRUARY 24 ROUND-UP. BOTH PM AND MINDEF PROMISED SEVERE PUNISHMENTS AWAIT PLOTTERS AND THAT DEMOCRATIC OFFICERS UNJUSTLY CASHIERED BY JUNTA WILL BE RETURNED TO ACTIVE DUTY. CARAMANLIS STRONGLY DEFENDED AVEROFF'S HANDLING OF DEFENSE AFFAIRS, CONDEMNED IRRESPONSIBLE CIRCLES WHICH HAD EXAGGERATED DEVELOPMENTS OF FEBRUARY 24, AND SS ASSURED PARLIAMENT AND NATION THAT "DEMOCRACY IS NOT IN DANGER BY JUNTA-DEMOCRACY IS ENDANGERED BY THE EXCESSES OF FREEDOM." SPEAKING FOR OPPOSITION PARTIES, MAVROS, PAPANDREOU, AND ILIOU BLAMED AVEROFF FOR MISLEADING PARLIAMENT BY HIS DILATORY

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AND POOR HANDLING OF DEJUNTIZATION. MAVORS AND PAPANDREOU

SHARPLY ATTACKED NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS FOR COMMENTING ON GREEK/TURKISH INTERNAL MATTERS AND THEY LAMENTED NATO GENERALLY. PAPANDREOU AGGRESSIVELY BLAMED NATO, CIA AND PENTAGON FOR MANIPULATING PRO-JUNTA ELEMENTS STILL IN ARMY. OPPOSITION AGREED THAT DEJUNTIZATION NOT COMPLETE, THAT DANGER OF RETURN OF DICTATORSHIP IS REAL, EVEN WHILE OFFERING PRAISE FOR ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THEMES AND EXCERPTS FROM FIVE PARLIAMENTARY SPEECHES FEBRUARY 28, WHICH TOTALLED 2-1/2 HOURS OF DEBATE, TAKEN FROM INCOMPLETE RADIO SUMMARIES AND FIRST HAND OBSERVATION. FIRST SPEAKER MINDEF AVEROFF PRESENTED AND EXTOLLED GOG'S HANDLING OF MYRIAD DEFENSE AND DEJUNTIZATION PROBLEMS SINCE LAST SUMMER. HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT DEJUNTIZATION IS A QUALITATIVE, NOT QUANTITATIVE, PROCESS IN WHICH RE-ORIENTATION OF ARMED FORCES IS ESSENTIAL GOAL. THIS GOAL LARGELY ACCOMPLISHED AND GREAT MAJORITY OF OFFICERS NOW KNOW THEIR PARAMOUNT AND PROPER ROLE IS TO DEFEND GREECE AGAINST EXTERNAL ENEMIES. HE CONFIDED HE HAD KNOWN ABOUT GROUP OF THIRTY-SEVEN OFFICERS FOR WEEKS (UNDER QUESTIONING BY MAVROS, HE ALLOWED HE HAD CLOSELY FOLLOWED THEIR MOVEMENTS FOR THREE MONTHS). HE LET CONSPIRATORS PLAY OUT THEIR HAND IN ORDER TO HAVE AMPLE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM, DETERMINE THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR CONTACTS, AND CHOOSE A TIME FOR ARRESTING THEM WHICH WOULD SUIT THE NATION'S INTERESTS. SINCE THERE WAS FIRM EVIDENCE THAT CONSPIRATORS WOULD MAKE MOVE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 8, PRIMARILY TO SUPPORT ALREADY ARRESTED JUNTISTS AND WITH OTHER SPECTACULAR (BUT UNDEFINED) INTENTIONS AGAINST THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, THEIR ROUND-UP WAS DECIDED FOR FEBRUARY 24. MINDEF HAD CLOSE SUPPORT OF YOUNGER OFFICERS IN ITS COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM. HE SAID HE COULD NOT DISCLOSE FULL CASE AGAINST ACCUSED, WOULD NOT STATE WHETHER ADDITIONAL OFFICERS WOULD BE ARRESTED-ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED THAT ACCUSED NOW NUMBER ONLY 39 AND NOT TWO THOUSAND, AND THAT PUNISHMENT OF THOSE FOUND GUILTY WOULD BE SEVERE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES LEADER, GOERGE MAVROS, GAVE SPIRITED ATTACK AGAINST AVEROFF WHICH AT ONE POINT PROVOKED CARAMANLIS TO RISE IN SHARP DISSENT. MAVROS SAID HE HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO HANDLE DEJUNTIZATION BEFORE MINDEF GAVE HIS EXPLANATION, AND AFTER HEARING HIM HE WAS EVEN MORE WORRIED. HE URGED GOG IMMEDIATELY TO QUERY NATO

AS TO THE INTENTIONS AND MEANINGS OF NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' REMARKS AS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY 28 TO VIMA THAT WERE HE GORGE PAPADOPOULOS HE WOULD HAVE EXECUTED ALEXANDER PANAGOULIS (A DEPUTY MEMBER OF MAVROS' PARTY WHO MADE ATTEMPT ON PAPADOPOULOS' LIFE IN 1968). MAVROS WARNED THAT IF GOG IS NOT CAPBALE OF TAKING STRONGER POSITION IN CLEANING OUR JUNTIKI ELEMENTS THAT THE NEXT COUP ATTEMPT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND WILL INTRODUCE REPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIP. HE URGED RETURN OF GREATER NUMBER OF OFFICERS CASHIERED SINCE 1967, ASKED FOR EXEMPLEARY PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RECENTLY ARRESTED AS WELL AS OF EARLIER DETAINEES, AND SAID THE PM SHOULD ATTEND PARLIAMENT MORE FREQUENTLY (A SUGGESTION WHICH LIKE SEVERAL OTHERS MADE BY OPPOSITION SPEAKERS WAS APPLAUDED BY FEW DEPUTIES FROM NEW DEMOCRACY).

4. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, PASOK, IN A MEASURED, OFTEN PROFESSORIAL ADDRESS TO FELLOW DEPUTIES, CHARGED THAT NATO, CIA, AND PENTAGON HAD BEEN MANIPULATING JUNTIKI ELEMENTS IN ARMY IN CAUSE OF HIGH TREASON. HE CALLED LUNS A WELL KNOWN ENEMY OF GREECE AND NATOL THE POLICE FORCE OF THE WEST WHICH SEEKS ONLY TO CONTROL OTHER NATIONS. HE SAID CARAMANLIS WAS "FRIEND OF AMERICANS" BUT NOT CONTROLLED BY AMERICANS. HE NOTED HIS FATHER HAD BEEN FRIEND OF AMERICANS, AS WELL, AND HAD NAIVELY BELIEVED THE AMERICANS WOULD RECIPROCATATE HIS TRUST AND LOVE FOR THEM". "BUT WE HAVE ALL MADE MISTAKES ALONG THOSE LINES" - AT WHICH POINT COMMUNIST LEADER ILIOU SHOUTED FROM FLOOR, "NOT ALL," - AND THAT GREECE WAS IN DANGER OF BECOMING NEW CHILE BECAUSE THERE WERE STILL PERSONS WITHIN STATE MACHINERY WHO CONNECTED WITH CIA AND PENTAGON AND WHO HAD JUNTA SYMPATHIES. HE SAID AVEROFF'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEAK STYLE OF MANAGEMENT ALLOWED PLOTTINGS TO GO ON. HE ENDED WITH UNPRECEDENTED COMPLIMENTS TO CARAMANLIS URGING HIM TO RAISE HIS STATURE EVEN HIGHER BY SACKING ALL DANGEROUS ELEMENTS AND BRINGING BACK ALL DEMOCRATIC OFFICERS PURGED SINCE 1965.

5. FAR LEFT SPOKESMAN ILIOU GAVE SENTIMENTAL SPEECH IN PRAISE OF GREEK ARMED FORCES AND YOUTH WHO SERVE NATION LOYALLY. HE SAID THE FAILED PLOT OF FEBRUARY 24 SHOULD BE REGARDED AS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE CLEANSING OF STATE MACHINERY. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HOLD AVEROFF RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSPIRACY, AVEROFF HAD GIVEN IMPRESSION TO NATION THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE, AND, THEREFORE, HE SHOULD RESIGN.

6. CARAMANLIS SPEECH WAS COMBINATION OF DISCLAIMER OF ANY REAL NEED TO DEFEND GOG DEJUNTIZATION POLICY, PRECISE LOGIC TIGHTLY PHRASED IN DEFENDING HIS POLICIES, AND APPEAL TO UNITY. HE SAID GOG DESIRED DIALOGUE WITH OPPOSITION BUT THAT IT WAS GOVERNMENT WHICH RULED AND NOT OPPONENTS. GOG POLICY, WHICH WAS ACTIVELY PURSUED, WAS TO ERADICATE CANCER OF JUNTA FROM ARMED FORCES AND MINDEF AVEROFF VIGOROUSLY AND SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED THIS POLICY. IN RESPONSE TO PRELIMINARY KNOWLEDGE OF POTENTIAL CONSPIRACY MINDEF HAD SPEEDED UP CASE BY CASE REVIEW OF ALL ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS AND MOVEMENTS OF SUSPECTS HAD BEEN OBSERVED METICULOUSLY. CARAMANLIS NOTED WITH IRONY THAT HE WAS MORE EAGER TO "DEJUNTIFY", CLEANSE AND PUNISH CONSPIRATORS THAN ANYONE ELSE BECAUSE HIS VERY LIFE HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY ENDANGERED BECAUSE OF JUNTIKI ELEMENTS.

HE PROMISED SEVERE PUNISHMENTS WILL BE METED OUT, CLEANSING WILL BE COMPLETED THROUGH MEASURES ALREADY PLACED BEFORE PARLIAMENT, AND CASHIERED DEMOCRATIC OFFICERS WILL BE REINSTATED. NONETHELESS, AT THIS POINT IN DEVELOPMENT TOWARD NORMALCY HE FEARED IT WAS EXESSES OF FREEDOM MORE THAN REMNANTS OF JUNTA WHICH ENDANGERED GREEK DEMOCRACY. HE REMINDED DEPUTIES AND NATION THAT ALL PERSONS SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DELICATE PERIOD IN NATION'S LIFE. HE COMMENDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION FOR STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND FOR SHOWING THAT GOVERNMENT IS PURSUEING ITS RULE EFFECTIVELY.

7. COMMENT. IN TERMS OF ORGANIZATION OF MATERIALS, ORAL PRESENTATION, AND ABILITY TO CAPTURE SPIRIT OF OCCASION, AVEROFF MADE STRAIGHT FORMAL PRESENTATION, WHILE MAVORS WAS MORE VIGOROUS AND COMPELLING IN HIS ARGUEMENTS. PAPANDREOU GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING COGENT, FORCEFUL AND WELL-PREPARED, NOTWITHSTANDING HIS EXCESSES TOWARD U.S. AND NATO; AND ILIOU WAS BENIGN AND HUMOROUS. PM CARAMANLIS GREATLY BOLSTERED GOVERNMENT'S CASE AS PRESENTED IN FIRST INSTANCE BY AVEROFF. KUBISCH

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